

## ELDER STATESMEN ARE POWER BEHIND JAPANESE THRONE

Emperor Always Object of  
Worship, Never Target of  
Political Critics.

GENRO DOES DECIDING

Monarch Has Halo of Divin-  
ity That Bars Question  
of Capacity to Rule.

CROWN PRINCE POPULAR

His Recent Tour Abroad Ended  
in Shattering of Moth  
Eaten Precedents.

THIS is the final article of the series dealing with Far Eastern problems with particular relation to questions that may arise in the armament conference in Washington. In the article THE NEW YORK HERALD correspondent describes the apex of the Japanese Governmental system, the Emperor, and the Crown Prince. Subsequent articles on Far Eastern topics by the correspondent will appear in the Sunday issues of THE NEW YORK HERALD.

By LOUIS SEIBOLD.  
Staff Correspondent of THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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Tokyo, Oct. 17.—The turmoil that seizes the heart of the Japanese Emperor, who is the living incarnation of the Japanese nation, is a thing of Western kings, queens, princes and presidents touches the Mikado of Japan not at all. As far as material influences are concerned, his life is as tranquil, isolated and even as sedentary and austere as that of a monk in a cloister. Politicians, diplomats, capital and labor and rival groups of critics war over, but without affecting his peace of mind in the slightest degree.

To the people of Japan, with the exception of a handful of favored ones, Yoshihito, the 123d Emperor of Japan, is known only through the great office that he holds. He is the only man in Japan who is never personally attacked, whose opinions are never disputed, whose edicts are final and whose right to rule is conceded by every element in the population.

The Japanese believe that Yoshihito inherits his power from a divine source and that he is the medium through which his illustrious ancestors express themselves. He is at once the divine and temporal head of Japan. He is the object of worship (Mitsuri) rather than of respect. He traces his descent in a direct line that dates from 500 years before the beginning of the Christian era.

### Japanese View of Emperor.

To the Japanese their Emperor is "The God of Heaven," the living incarnation of Ama-Terasu, the Sun Goddess, with whom all things Japanese began. From the vague web of myth and old wives' tales, combined with the worship of religion and ancestor, the people have fabricated a garment with which to invest their ruler, whose power is more sentimental than material, but whose hold upon the affections of the people is almost superlatively unreal.

To a Western monarch or executive, harassed by the intricacies of popular government, the job of Emperor of Japan must appear to be too good to be true. He is not compelled to fight for party nomination, he is never a target in election contests. No one ever questions his motives or says unkind things about him. He does not have to defend his policies, indulge in acrimonious controversy with his critics, parry fusillades of questions from inquisitive reporters, make turgid speeches at dinners, become involved in disputes over patronage, or permit a horde of prying trippers to overrun his house and grounds, or try to live within his wages.

On coming to Japan my first ambition was to interview the Emperor. I was blandly, though politely, advised officially to "forget it." My next ambition was to find some one who had ever talked with the Emperor. I met quite a number of men who have seen him at long range, but, aside from the heads of the Government of the very first rank (who are discreetly evasive) I have yet to meet one.

The Japanese people are apparently content to worship their Emperor without any personal knowledge of him. On the few occasions that he has ventured abroad into the city from his imposing palace, surrounded by a wide moat and grim, gray walls, his person has been protected from prying eyes. His state carriage was always surrounded by the military and in the streets through which he passed lines of soldiers and police. A citizen was prohibited from even looking directly at the nation's ruler, huddled deep in the seat.

### Mikado in Motor Car.

The people in the street were commanded to bow—"prostrate" would be the better word—with their arms hung

from their sides and never dare to raise an eye to the Emperor's person. The only departure from this arbitrary rule was when the Emperor left his palace in July in Tokyo for his palace in charming Mikko. His departure was not announced, and he actually used a motor car instead of the splendid court equipage in going to the railway station. But the greatest sensation created by any circumstance surrounding this unprecedented concession to modern usage was that the streets were not lined with the military or police and that no attempt was made to prevent an adoring eye from focusing on the figures of the Emperor and Empress.

I tried to secure a description of the Japanese ruler from a man who saw him on that occasion. The clearest one I could obtain was that "he is a small, spare man, and looks sick." The general impression is that the Emperor is, in fact, a sick man. He has never been robust, and I am reliably informed that his ailment is not entirely of a physical character, but that he is "sick in mind" as well.

This fact does not appear to make the slightest difference to the Japanese. He is their Emperor, he is the Son of Heaven; he is descended from the Sun Goddess. That's about all they seem to care anything about. They never trouble themselves to find out how the country is administered by their Emperor, what minds formulate the policies of state, through what agencies decisions are reached. All of these things are considered to be a matter of personal concern to the Emperor himself.

The politicians (who never bring the Emperor into their disputes, by the way) know pretty well that the Privy Council, of which Prince Yamagata is the head, wields the greatest influence with Yoshihito, and that in the last analysis it is the Genro, composed of Elder Statesmen, that decides. They further know that in the elaborate entourage of the Emperor are favorites of the royal family and trusted retainers of the Elder Statesmen composing the Genro, that can be depended upon to protect the interests of (1) the Emperor, (2) the Genro and (3) the empire.

### Duties of the Emperor.

Under the organization of the Government the duties of the Emperor of Japan are few and simple. They are:

1. The right to convene, open, close or prorogue the Imperial Diet and dissolve the House of Representatives.
2. The right to issue emergency ordinances when the Imperial Diet is not in session.
3. The right to put into operation measures for maintaining peace and order.
4. The right to assume supreme command of the army and navy and to direct the organization of the armed service.
5. The right to declare war, make peace, conclude treaties and proclaim a state of siege.

Beyond these duties, the Emperor of Japan does not figure in the administration of the Government. That is left to the very nicely balanced groups of bureaucrats, who take their orders from the Genro, or from other members of the Imperial family. On but two occasions during the year does the

Emperor appear in public. This is at the chrysanthemum festival, held in the palace enclosure during the autumn, and again at a service at the Imperial shrine. A select number of distinguished guests are invited to both, but they rarely approach very near the person of the Emperor.

On a few occasions the Emperor has received foreign Ambassadors, when the ceremonies were strictly formal and did not invite personal conversation. Most of the other functions that devolve upon the sovereign are performed by proxy. Hence it was that when the Emperor's birthday was celebrated, in August last, the members of his court represented him. Incidentally, the Japanese court is noted for its rigid conformity to royal etiquette, and, next to that of Austria, has always been celebrated for its complete observance of ceremonial.

So deep and apparently sincere is the reverence held for the Emperor that no Japanese will ever make reference to him without removing his hat or making humble obeisance. A short time ago two teachers in the Shiro primary school in Nagano prefecture were dismissed because they had been caught drinking sake in the same room with the picture of the Emperor and Empress. The incident is important as revealing the attitude of the people toward their ruler. The politicians, who are quite as acrimonious as those of other countries, are always careful to refrain from bringing the Emperor into their disputes. He is considered to be as much above politics as he is above the ordinary citizen of the empire.

### Imperial Maintenance.

Considering the amount of service actually performed by him, the Japanese Emperor is pretty well paid. The last budget provides 4,500,000 yen (\$2,250,000) for his maintenance during the current year. In view of the fact that the expenses of most of the twenty-seven palaces scattered throughout the empire are also furnished by the state and that the personal fortune of the Emperor is very great, he probably doesn't have to worry about ways and means.

The royal family is known to own 5,425,000 acres of dwelling lands, forests, farms and plantations, 60,460 shares in the Bank of Japan, 60,400 in the Yokohama Specie Bank, 10,000 in the Industrial Bank of Japan, 2,522 in the Formosan Bank and 80,555 shares in the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (Japanese Steamship Company). The royal family also owns stock in many other profitable enterprises, including the Imperial Hotel, whose paying guest I am at present.

Under the Japanese law land and other property belonging to the Emperor are divided into personal and hereditary property. The property of the other members of the Imperial house is subject to tax levy when it produces revenue. This does not apply, however, to the estates belonging to the Grand Empress Dowager, Empress Dowager, Empress, her apparent, his consort, eldest son, and that son's consort, and other unmarried Imperial members who have not attained their majority.

The Empress of Japan, who was born in 1884 and is five years younger than the Emperor, is the fourth daughter

of the late Prince Fushu, a noble of the first rank. It is of incidental interest that there are but five royal families in Japan from whom an Emperor may select a wife, and in view of the strained relations between the Nippon Government and its Chinese and other Asiatic neighbors, there is not much chance of this number expanding under present conditions at least.

### Crown Prince of Japan.

The hope of the empire is centered upon Hirohito, the Crown Prince, whose adoption of democratic methods has struck a popular appeal. Hirohito has just passed his twentieth birthday. Up to the time that he went abroad, he was almost as much a mystery to the people of Japan as his illustrious sire. He has one advantage in that, while not physically robust, he enjoys much better health than his father and is said to manifest a keen interest in public matters and progressive principles.

The Emperor has three other sons, Yasuhito, Atsu-No-Miya, who is 19 years old; Nobuhito, Takamatsu-No-Miya, who is 15 years old, and Takahito, Sumi-No-Miya, who is 5 years old. There are no daughters in the Imperial family. The Emperor has five sisters, all of whom are married to princes.

Some of the ancient customs of the Empire were shattered when the Crown Prince of Japan returned from his tour of Europe early in September. It appears that the prospective ruler of the Japanese people was very much impressed by the democratic receptions given him in London and Paris. At any rate, he called home an announcement that he would not object to a popular reception. After much deliberation among the royal and favored families, it was decided to grant the request of the Prince.

I was in a small town on the Japanese Sea when the imperial announcement was made that the Prince would be taken off when the Crown Prince came back, that the populace would actually be permitted to gaze upon his august figure and "Banzai" his head off. The announcement caused a sensation, because none like it had ever been made before. Interpreting the royal commission as a command, the citizens at Yokohama and Tokyo proceeded to make the most elaborate preparations for the royal home coming.

At Yokohama, where the youthful Crown Prince landed amid the thunder of guns and the whirling of aircraft, and at Tokyo, where he finally pulled up, the greeting extended to him would have been regarded as mildly democratic in Western countries, but it was viewed as almost Bolshevik by the reactionary element, who jealously guard the old traditions.

The old times attempted to limit the popular greeting to the Prince to the truly Oriental formula. They were strong enough with the police

to send out word the night before the arrival of His Imperial Majesty that expressions of joy on the part of the people would be restricted to the "elkeirei." This meant that the people would only be permitted to line the streets with their arms hanging abjectly at their sides and with bowed head as royalty passed by. The only concession announced by the police was that the populace might steal a glance at the August Presence, but should not under any circumstances take a square look at him.

For once—the only time in history—the police lost. The Prince had been advised of the police order and immediately vetoed it, with the result that his royal subjects not only "elkeirei," but waved their hats, umbrellas and kimonos. Further than this, they chorused their greeting of "Kotaihi Denka Banzai" (Welcome home Your Imperial Highness). Also they actually committed lese majeste by laughing at the cops, which in the old days would have landed an offender in jail.

### Dressed for Occasion.

At Tokyo probably half a million of the population got out their plug hats, their most ornamental kimonos, their derbies, their frock coats, eighty-seven varieties of straw hats and helmets, to roar a genuine welcome to the Crown Prince. The dignitaries were, of course, correctly garbed in topers and frock coat and were in all other respects in perfect form, even to gloves and spats. The women naturally stuck to the only garb countenanced for their sex, but they displayed their most brilliant obis and ornamental coifs.

The police and cavalry which commanded the cross streets looked upon the audacity of the crowds in helpless displeasure, but did not attempt to still a single voice or draw a sabre upon celebrants who for the first time were permitted to welcome an Imperial Prince without a police permit. As a whole, the demonstration was much like that given a popular hero in the United States.

The incapacitated Emperor did not come from Nikko, but the first thing the Crown Prince did after greeting his brothers, sisters and great men of the empire was to leave Tokyo to tell his parents all about the wonders of his Western odyssey. His next duty was to visit the Imperial Shrine at Ise to give thanks to his Shinto Gods for his safe return.

For more than a week celebrations in honor of the event were held throughout the empire. During that week even the rickshaw men displayed a disinclination to work. The fact that they had been permitted to "put one over" on the police and soldiers and give vent to a good, lusty cheer for their Prince was an event not to be lightly dismissed by an ordinary holiday, so they devoted a full week to it.

## KU KLUX INQUIRY BY CONGRESS DROPS

House Committee Votes to Call  
No More Witnesses to  
Washington.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—The proposed investigation of the Ku Klux Klan by Congress blew up to-day.

After a ten minute session behind closed doors the House Rules Committee, which at morning and afternoon sessions put William J. Simmons, the Klan's imperial wizard, through a rigid investigation, voted unanimously not to call any more witnesses.

Announcement of the committee's action was made by Chairman Campbell. It is expected that an adverse report will be submitted to the House on a number of resolutions providing for an investigation unless the Department of Justice, conducting an inquiry of its own, comes forward with unexpected evidence.

Still showing the effects of his illness, the imperial wizard's voice weakened as he sat all day answering a whirlwind of questions. As on previous days he entered a categorical denial of charges of lawlessness by the Klan, and reiterated that the total membership of the organization was slightly under 100,000.

There was an exciting moment at the outset when Simmons dramatically declared that according to information given to him by Representative Upshaw (Ga.) a man who was supposed to have been present stated that Chairman Campbell and Assistant Attorney-General Crim had characterized his collapse last week as "a cheap theatrical attempt to gain sympathy."

Quick as a flash Chairman Campbell declared there was not a word of truth in it. Mr. Crim, jumping to his feet in the confusion, declared the chairman's answer went for him, and the wizard, still smiling, said he was glad to know it.

As he left the stand Mr. Simmons, apparently with deep feeling, said that he wanted to thank the committee for its consideration and courtesy.

## NETHERLANDS TO JOIN PACIFIC CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—Formal acceptance by the Netherlands Government of the invitation to participate in the Washington conference in discussion of Pacific and Far Eastern questions was received to-day by the State Department through the American Minister at The Hague.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs in a note dated October 15, expressing the appreciation of his Government, added that the Government of the Queen associated itself sincerely in the wish to reach an understanding on the problems of the Pacific and Far East in a manner to encourage a decided friendship between all the nations concerned.

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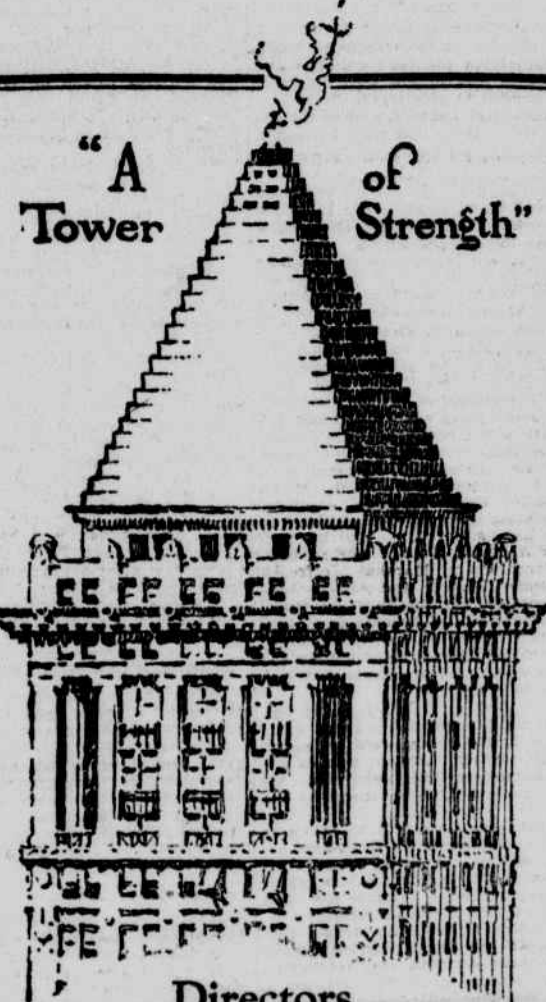
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